Listening to Music that has influenced Salsa

Scan the QR code to the right and listen to an example of Cuban Son music. Answer the following questions as you listen and feel free to listen to the extract more than once if you need to.

1. What instruments can you hear playing in this extract?

2. How would you describe the way the lead singer and other singers/instruments 'interact' with each other?

3. Try counting each of the following rhythm patterns along with the bass line – "123, 123, 12" and "12, 123, 123" – which of the rhythm patterns "fits" best?

4. How would you describe the **HARMONIC RHYTHM** of this piece? The Harmonic Rhythm is the pace or speed at which the harmonies and chords change.



In the Cuban and Puerto Rican communities in New York, Son was combined with a variety of musical styles - the most popular of which was "American Big Band Jazz", but also elements of Rock, Pop, Puerto Rican music and other Cuban dances - to create Salsa. Scan the QR code and listen to an example of "American Big Band Jazz" and answer the questions below as you listen:

1. What instrument is playing the bass line and how would you describe the **MOVEMENT** of this bass line?
2. How would you describe the rhythm of the piano part?
3. Do you think the solo pianist is "playing from a written score"? Why?
4. American Big Band Jazz such as this is often based on short repeated rhythmic and melodic patterns. What is the musical name for these?
5. What types of instruments are added later in the extract?
6. How does the **HARMONIC RHYTHM** of this extract compare with that of Son?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

How Salsa Developed



Salsa quickly became extremely popular and spread to Latin American countries such as Columbia, Mexico and Venezuela. Did you know that the name Salsa literally means “sauce”? It is thought that the word was first used by the Cuban musician and band leader Ignacio Piñeiro, who would shout it out to his own band, asking them to play faster and with more heat, to spice up the music. (Latin American sauce is nearly always very spicy!) Find out the name of 3 famous performers of Salsa music and add these to the table below. Include the instrument which they are most famous for.

FAMOUS SALSA MUSICIANS AND PERFORMERS

From your learning above, see if you can pick out some musical features of Son Music and American Big Band Jazz and add these to the boxes below to show how Salsa developed.

Features of Son Music



Features of American Big Band Jazz

Scan the QR code above and listen to this while you are working. It’s a performance of a piece of Salsa music by the famous Salsa performer Celia Cruz. Try and pick out some musical features in the music that you’ve been learning about.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Learning about Latin-American Percussion



Salsa, like much Caribbean music, uses a considerable amount of Latin-American Percussion instruments. Below are the names, pictures and descriptions of some of the most used ones. See if you can match the correct name to the correct picture and description in the table on the next page.



A pair of shallow single-headed drums with metal casing played with a variety of beaters.





Small "slit-drum" made from a single piece of wood struck by a beater producing a sharp clacking sonority.







Hand held hollow shakers filled with beads, seeds or dried beans mounted on wooden handles and played in pairs

A pair of short thick dowels made of wood played by striking them together producing a clicking sonority.

Small, open-bottomed drums played in pairs by the hands often on the players lap.





A metal instrument, originally hung around the animals neck, producing a metallic sonority.

An open-ended gourd with notches which are rubbed by a stick producing a ratchet-like

Tall, narrow, single-headed drums from Cuba, mounted on a stand and often played in pairs by the hands.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Scan the QR code and listen to eight short extracts featuring the solo sound of each of the Latin-American percussion instruments you have been learning about. As you listen to each extract, try and identify which percussion instrument you think is playing. You'll hear each of the 8 instruments from pages 8 and 9 played only once.

Extract	Instrument	Extract	Instrument
Extract 1		Extract 5	
Extract 2		Extract 6	
Extract 3		Extract 7	
Extract 4		Extract 8	

LIVEWORKSHEETS